**Appendix 1:** Supplementary tables A-C [posted as supplied by author]

	Selection				Comparability	Outcome			
Study	Represent ativeness of the exposed cohort	Selection of the non exposed cohort	Ascertain ment of exposure	Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study	Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis	Assessme nt of outcome	Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur	Adequacy of follow up of cohorts	Qua lity scor e
Bellavia et al 2013	*	*		*	* *	*	*	*	8
Leenders et al 2013	*	*		*	* *	*	*	*	8
Zhang et al 2011 (men)	*	*	*		* *	*		*	7
Zhang et al 2011 (women)	*	*	*		* *	*	*	*	8
Nagura et al 2009	*	*		*	* *	*	*	*	8
Nakamura et al 2008	*	*	*		* *	*	*		7
Tucker et al 2005	*	*			* *	*	*		6
Genkinger et al 2004	*	*			* *	*	*		6
Steffen et al 2003	*	*	*	*	* *	*	*	*	9
Sauvaget et al 2003		*		*	* *	*	*	*	7
Bazzano et al 2002	*	*	*	*	* *	*	*	*	9
Rissanen et al 2002	*	*		*	* *	*	*	*	8
Strandhagen et al 2000		*	*			*	*	*	5
Whiteman et al 1999	*	*		*	*	*	*		6
Hertog et al 1996	*	*			* *	*	*	*	7
Sahyoun et al 1996		*		*	* *	*	*	*	7
Colditz et al 1985		*		*	*	*	*		5

Note: A study can be awarded a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the Selection and Outcome categories. A maximum of two stars can be given for Comparability.

No of studies	HR <sup>*</sup> (95% CI)	Р	I <sup>2</sup> , P†
6	0.94 (0.93 to 0.96)	0.001	0.0, 0.43
7	0.95 (0.92 to 0.98)	0.001	82.4, 0.001
5	0.95 (0.93 to 0.96)	0.001	10.2, 0.35
5	0.96 (0.94 to 0.99)	0.008	80.8, 0.001
4	0.96 (0.94 to 0.99)	0.019	84.6, 0.001
	6 7 5 5	6 0.94 (0.93 to 0.96) 7 0.95 (0.92 to 0.98) 5 0.95 (0.93 to 0.96) 5 0.96 (0.94 to 0.99)	6 0.94 (0.93 to 0.96) 0.001 7 0.95 (0.92 to 0.98) 0.001 5 0.95 (0.93 to 0.96) 0.001 5 0.96 (0.94 to 0.99) 0.008

Comparison	No of studies	Pooled HR <sup>*</sup> (95% CI)	Р	I <sup>2</sup> , P†
All-cause mortality				
Fruits	6	0.94 (0.90 to 0.98)	0.006	78.9, <0.001
Vegetables	6	0.95 (0.92 to 0.99)	0.009	88.4, <0.001
CVD mortality				
Fruits	5	0.96 (0.92 to 1.00)	0.05	72.3, 0.006
Vegetables	5	0.96 (0.93 to 1.00)	0.03	68.0, 0.014
Cancer mortality				
Fruits	6	0.99 (0.97 to 1.00)	0.09	26.5, 0.24
Vegetables	7	0.99 (0.97 to 1.01)	0.19	44.7, 0.09